



RHODE ISLAND STATE POLICE



INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

February 6, 2011

TO: Colonel Brendan P. Doherty
Superintendent

FROM: Major David S. Neill.
Professional Standards Unit

SUBJECT: *Analysis of Division High-Speed Pursuit Reports for 2010*

In accordance with the Division's *Pursuit Driving Policy* under General Order 51B and CALEA standard number 41.2.2j, this writer conducted an administrative review of relevant files for calendar year 2010. This writer noted that the number of Division pursuits increased by thirty (30%) percent during the 2010 calendar year. (See table below.)

CATEGORY	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Total Pursuits	13	4	10	11	18	31	40
Terminated	2(15%)	0 (0%)	5 (50%)	2 (18%)	6 (33%)	12 (39%)	7 (18%)
Resulting in Collision	4 (31%)	3 (75%)	6 (60%)	4 (36%)	7 (39%)	9 (29%)	19 (48%)

A thorough and careful examination revealed that seventy-seven (77%) percent of the Division members who engaged in pursuits were in compliance with the Division's pursuit policy. In three (3) of the thirteen (13) pursuits, or twenty-three (23%) percent of the time, a Division member received either verbal or written counseling for failing to terminate their respective pursuits. It is important to note, that all three non-compliance pursuits were conducted by Division members with less than five (5) years of service. Division Pursuit reports reveal that only two (2) pursuits were terminated. However, the Division's CAD system does not capture pursuits that are immediately terminated or never initiated due to the Division member's judgment and knowledge of the pursuit policy. Therefore, the number of pursuits terminated is inaccurately reflected and should be much higher. A higher number of terminated pursuits would reflect an even greater level of policy compliance.

Two (2) of the four (4) motor vehicle collisions involved a Division vehicle. The other two (2) reported collisions involved a fleeing suspect crashing their motor vehicle into a fixed object. Collisions resulting from pursuits in 2010 were drastically reduced to thirty-one (31%) percent compared to seventy-five (75%) in 2009. The percentage of pursuits resulting in a collision in 2010 represented the lowest number of pursuit-related collisions in the last seven (7) years.

Examination of Division reports reveal that five (5) of the thirteen (13) pursuits were initiated by Division members, four (4) were the result of responding to civilian 911 calls reporting a person operating under the influence of alcohol / drugs, and four (4) were initiated by other Law Enforcement Agencies. Five (5) pursuits were engaged by Division members assigned to the Day

Patrol and eight (8) were engaged by Late Patrols assigned to Nights. Seven (7) of the pursuits were engaged in the Lincoln Barracks patrol area, two (2) were engaged in the Scituate Barracks and the Hope Valley Barracks patrol areas, one (1) was engaged in the Wickford Barracks patrol area, and one (1) was engaged by a member of the Detective Division. Six (6) of the thirteen pursuits resulted in felony charges and/or charges for driving under the influence of alcohol / drugs. Five (5) of the thirteen pursuits occurred during the month of February, two (2) occurred in the months of April and November and one (1) occurred during the months of March, May, June, and September.

The race of the fleeing suspects accounted for nine (9) Caucasians, three (3) African-Americans, and one (1) Hispanic. The fleeing suspects consisted of ten (10) males and three (3) females.

The information used to create this report was gathered from "Post Pursuit Debriefing Reports," arrest reports, accident reports, e-mails, and Inter-Departmental communications submitted by non-Commissioned Officers, Commissioned Officers and District Commanders. Based on this writer's review, it is reasonable to believe that all "Pursuits" are being reviewed in strict compliance with Division Policy.

In conclusion, this writer noted that there were no patterns of abuse or non-compliance evident in the thirteen (13) motor vehicle pursuits during calendar year 2010, nor did this writer's review reveal any evidence of training deficiencies or willful violations of Division policy or accepted practices. Furthermore, this writer has consulted with the Academy Staff and members assigned to the Planning and Research Unit to ensure that General Order 51B, titled, "Pursuit Driving" be incorporated annually into In-Service training..

Respectfully submitted,

David S. Neill.
Major
Professional Standards Unit

cc: Accreditation Unit
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